

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 11-15, and 23-39 were presented for examination. The Examiner has indicated that claims 11-15 and 23-39 are allowable. The Examiner has also indicated that claims 6-8 are objected to as being dependent on the rejected base claim.

This amendment cancels claims 3 and 6. The limitations of these claims are incorporated into claim 1 via amendment. Claims 4, 5, 7, and 8 have been amended to account for the changes to base claim 1. It is believed that all of the pending claims are now in a state proper for allowance. Accordingly, the applicants urge the Examiner to pass the claims to allowance.

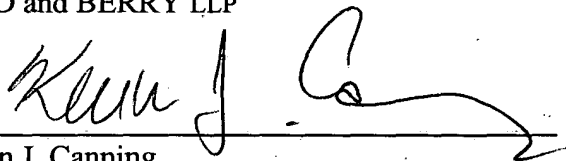
Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yasumatsu et al. In view of the incorporation and the limitation of claims 3 and 6 into claim 1, it is believed that this rejection can no longer be applied to the amended claims. Moreover, the rejection is moot as to amended claim 3. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully urge reconsideration of this rejection.

The applicants made a good faith effort to place the claims in the state proper for allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with the applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the applicants' attorney at (206) 622-4900.

Respectfully submitted,

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